

THE NUNES REPORT

Inside this issue:

Visalia/Clovis offices open 2

Nunes first in class to launch Web site 2

Nunes in national security exercise 3

Residents turn to Nunes' staff for help 4

Accomplishments come early 5

Dems hold up Hispanic appointment 6



Rep. Devin Nunes poses with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld after a simulated agriculture bio-terrorism exercise called "Silent Prairie."

Page 3

Congress passes Rep. Nunes' water study

Study to create more water storage will begin immediately

After countless hours of rounding up support, Rep. Devin Nunes scored an early legislative victory when Congress authorized a water-storage study above Millerton Lake in February.

Mr. Nunes' top priority gained approval as Congress passed its yearly spending plan, including his earlier proposal to study the feasibility of creating new water storage for the Central Valley. The cost of the study would be shared between the Bureau of Reclamation and the CalFed program.

"The future of the Central Valley rests in the future of our water supply," said Mr. Nunes, who is a member of the Agriculture and Resources committees.

"Without the creation of new water storage, our parched landscape won't be able to support a growing population and the most productive agricultural land in the world. I am very pleased to have accomplished this first



Source: Bureau of Reclamation

A reservoir at Temperance Flat would capture about 1.2 million-acre-feet of water before it entered Millerton Lake.

step toward a lasting solution."

An initial analysis of the area shows that using the wide, bowl-shaped geography of Temperance Flat for the construction of a reservoir could capture as much as 1.2 million-acre-feet of water before it enters Millerton Lake.

Water would be released from Temperance Flat to Millerton Lake and diverted to the Friant-Kern

Canal, the Madera Canal, and/or released to the San Joaquin River.

Rep. George Radanovich supported Mr. Nunes' effort on securing authorization for the study.

"I was proud to support this effort, but Congressman Nunes deserves all the accolades for its success," Mr. Radanovich said. "In January, he hit the

See Water page 3

Visalia office
113 N. Church St.
Suite 208
Visalia, CA 93291
(559) 733-3861
Fax (559) 733-3865

Clovis office
264 Clovis Ave.
Suite 206
Clovis, CA 93612
(559) 323-5235
Fax (559) 323-5528

www.nunes.house.gov



Rep. Devin Nunes is flanked by Vice President Dick Cheney, left, and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, right.

This is one of many photos on Mr. Nunes' Web site. Visit often to see posts of local faces who visit the congressional office in Washington, D.C.

Historic building home to district office

Downtown Visalia is the epicenter of commerce and government in Tulare County. So it was an obvious choice for Congressman Devin Nunes to establish his 21st Congressional District headquarters in the historic Bank of Italy building on the northwest corner of Main and Church streets.

Over the decades, the tall brown-stone building has been home to many financial institutions, including Bank of America, Visalia Community Bank and currently Bank of the Sierra.

Recently remodeled by Fistolera Construction, the congressional office is in Suite 208 on the second floor. The office is made up of a conference room, reception area, break room, a constituent case work office, a communication office, an office for District Director Bob Jennings and an office for Mr. Nunes.

Additionally, an office was established in downtown Clovis as a base of operations for Field Representative Kevin Shakespeare, as well as the congressman, Jennings and other district staff. All case



Rep. Devin Nunes' district office is in the Bank of the Sierra building in downtown Visalia.

work is handled out of the Visalia office.

Nunes first online among freshmen reps

While other inaugural Web sites from freshmen congressmen were just posting their welcome messages, Rep. Devin Nunes' online home was already communicating with constituents and pointing them to helpful agencies.

The colorful and extensive site is a window into the bustling congressional operation under Mr. Nunes' command.

Already, residents of the district have come to count on the Web site for the latest information on a

number of issues, as well as key links to federal agencies and answers to frequently asked questions.

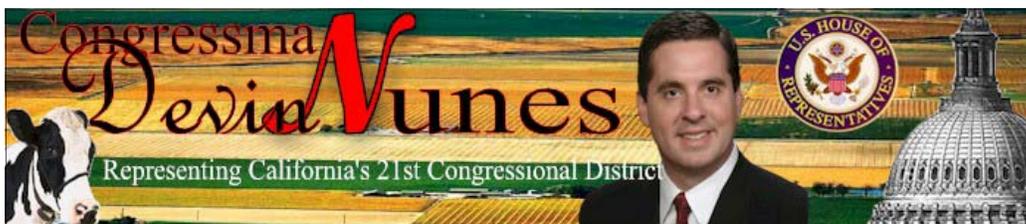
"Much of the credit has to go to Damon Nelson," Mr. Nunes said. "Hiring him was a three-fold benefit: He's a top-notch legislative director; he's a Tulare native; and he's an Internet whiz. Because of him we have one of the most informative and best-run sites in the House of Representatives."

The site includes pages on constituent services,

the congressman's biography, information and links for students, a media center, a photo gallery, legislative information, help on a variety of life issues residents face, and an extensive list of links to federal agencies, media outlets and other useful sites.

There is also a link to a Web-based email form to ask questions and make comments to Mr. Nunes.

Visit often for updates on important issues and news about the 21st Congressional District.



Nunes steps into national security role

Surrounded by top military and government officials, Congressman Devin Nunes was part of the frontline defense in a simulated bio-terrorist attack today against the nation's agricultural industry.

From a command post near Washington, D.C., the strategic planning exercise put the participants through the paces of responding to an outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease.

As one of the key participants, Mr. Nunes and a handful of his colleagues in Congress helped decide how lawmakers might respond in the situation.

"The exercise was sobering," said Mr. Nunes, a member of the Agriculture and Resources committees. "What was most surprising was how quickly an outbreak of the disease could affect the nation's economy, military deployments and tourism."

Bio-terrorism against agriculture involves the deliberate introduction of a disease agent, either among livestock or in the food chain for purposes of undermining stability in the economy or generating fear.



Rep. Devin Nunes poses with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld following a strategic exercise Feb. 11 aimed at preparing for a bio-terrorist attack against agriculture.

Exercise "Silent Prairie" gave participants an opportunity to examine the gravity and complexity of such a major national-security crisis.

Mr. Nunes and others assessed the economic effects of a nationwide incident and how federal and state officials might respond. An agricultural bio-terrorism attack could affect many Congressional districts in the country, and have ripple effects through many sectors of the national economy, including agricultural product ex-

ports, the transportation industry, and the retail food industry.

Among other things, the exercise demonstrated that:

"In an era when we face the threat of terrorist attacks on our own soil, we are fortunate to have the Department of Homeland Security to take the lead in making our lives safer," Mr. Nunes said.

"Simulations such as these are important factors in identifying and minimizing threats against our citizens."

A response to an agricultural bio-terrorist attack could require significantly more resources than that of the attack on the World Trade Center. Department of Defense resources could be strained by supporting state and local government efforts to cope with the disaster.

State and local government organizations need to be prepared to effectively use military support during such an incident.



Water— continued from page one

ground here in Washington with a commitment to creating more water storage. Now, only a few weeks later, that idea is on its way to the President and he is going home with a victory for the Valley."

The proposed reservoir

at Temperance Flat would be a beneficial solution for users of the river by creating a general increase of river water available to Friant Water Users, enhance flood protection to residence living inside the San Joaquin flood zone,

and enabling the restoration of the fishery downstream of Friant. The study is expected to begin immediately.

Residents turn to Nunes' staff for help

From the moment the telephone in the new congressional office was plugged in, residents from throughout Fresno and Tulare counties were turning to Congressman Devin Nunes for help.

The congressman has three staff members dedicated to helping residents interact with government agencies on a variety of topics. Mr. Nunes has made helping constituents his top priority and it's beginning to show.

Even in the short time the office has been operating, dozens of cases have been resolved. Residents have sent in letters and made calls expressing their appreciation.

Constituent Representative John Gong handles cases involving Department of Justice, including the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the U.S. Postal Service.

"As caseworkers, we are able to interact with our constituents on a daily basis and able to see the end product of our work. Generally, when people turn to Congressman Nunes for assistance they have exhausted every means possible to resolve their problem with the federal government on their own. The satisfaction comes when the Congressman is able to cut through the red tape, get answers and resolve their problem," Gong said.

He advises constituents to fill out their INS applications carefully. INS cases take a considerable



Constituent representatives John Gong, above, Marjorie Risi, left, and Nicky Henderson, right.

More than 230 cases have come into the office since January. Dozens have been resolved by Mr. Nunes' staff.



Henderson said.

For more information on how the staff can assist residents, visit Mr. Nunes Web site at www.nunes.house.gov. There you will find detailed information and answers to frequently asked questions.

"My staff takes great pride in helping residents in whatever way we are able," Mr. Nunes said. "Personally, it's an honor to be able to advocate for the folks of my district in Washington, D.C."



"One of the recent cases I enjoyed solving involved a pilot who wanted to fly Search and Rescue missions. He has over 1000 hours logged but because his blood pressure was high, his license was denied. It turned out that he was ill the night before the exam and got little sleep.

A phone call to the FAA in Oklahoma City and co-operation from the pilot was all it took to solve his problem. He got his medical certification." -Marjorie Risi, constituent representative

Ms. Risi mostly handles cases involving the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Internal Revenue Service.

Achievements stack up early

In this round up:

Agriculture Armenia
Education Environment
Taxes

Agriculture

Glassy-winged Sharpshooter

Rep. Nunes led a delegation effort to secure additional funding for the eradication of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter and Pierce's Disease.

Mr. Nunes received official notification from the Office of Management and Budget that his request for Commodity Credit Corp. funding to combat the Glassy-winged Sharp-



shooter had been approved in the amount of \$8.8 million. Additionally, funding was included in the appropriations process bringing the total funding level to about \$26.1 million.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Nunes also led a delegation effort to secure an additional \$70 million in Commodity Credit Corp. funds to help eradicate bovine tuberculosis in California beef and dairy herds. The disease is a major threat to the economy of the Central Valley and throughout the state. In addition, the congress-

man advocated—along with Rep. Bill Thomas—for the funding of another dairy de-population request in Tulare County. By February 1st, the USDA had advanced the issue to the Secretary's level, where it is currently undergoing review.

Dairy Regulatory Issue

Mr. Nunes led a national effort to address a federal loophole in the milk marketing orders for Arizona-Las Vegas. This loophole permits Producer-Distributor's in Arizona to ship "Class 1" milk into California without participating in the California order, or the federal order. Language was originally included in the omnibus appropriations bill to address this issue. However, it was removed. Mr. Nunes moved to restore the language prior to passage of the bill. As of February 1, Rep. Nunes had built a diverse coalition of representatives in support of closing this loophole and sent a letter to Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Henry Bonilla with the signatures of 11 other congressman, including all of the members of the Ag Committee from California.

Methyl Bromide Freeze

Mr. Nunes sent a letter to Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman Billy Tauzin requesting his assistance in addressing the phase-out of methyl bromide use in the United States. In the letter, Mr. Nunes supported a freeze in further reductions at the 2002 level, noting that further reduc-

tions will result in a loss of \$446 million to the U.S. agriculture economy.

Armenia

Mr. Nunes cosponsored legislation calling on U.S. officials to grant Permanent Normal Trade Relations with Armenia.

In other business, Mr. Nunes said in a letter to the State Department that he believes that the United States needs to continue development assistance to Armenia. He said that after reviewing U.S. programs in Armenia and elsewhere around the world, there is no better private organization implementing U.S. assistance than the **Armenian Technology Group (ATG), a Fresno-based organization.**

Education

Mr. Nunes co-sponsored H.R. 13, the **Museum and Library Services Act of 2003**. This legislation will provide \$242 million for Library and Museum programs throughout the country. California will be allotted \$16.2 million for entrepreneurial grants and for local library and museum projects. This money will benefit those who use programs such as the California Campaign for Libraries, which has the CA Public Library Video Network; the Grapes of Wrath reading program; Live Homework Help; Public Library

See Accomplishments page 6

Rep. Nunes joins caucuses to focus on issues

Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine

Meth Caucus Goals:

To raise national awareness of the dangers posed by methamphetamine abuse; develop strong public policy to fight against methamphetamine manufacturing, distribution and use.

Congressional Wine Caucus

Wine Caucus Goals:

Ensure that Members of Congress learn more about the challenges of growing grapes and making wine; educate and engage Members of Congress in legislative and regulatory matters pertaining to wine and grape issues.

Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues

Armenian Caucus Goal:

An informal organization of Members of Congress who share a concern for a stronger U.S.-Armenia relationship.

Hispanic Issues

Rep. Nunes joined the Hispanic Conference which is made up of members concerned about Hispanic and Portuguese issues.

Farmer Cooperatives Caucus

Rep. Nunes joined the relatively new congressional caucus that promises to serve as a think-tank style advisory body on cooperative issues relating to the U.S. farm economy.

Senate should ratify Miguel Estrada nomination

Democrats stalling appointment of first Hispanic to DC Circuit Court

Miguel Estrada was nearly an adult when he first came to the United States from Honduras. But despite his late start, Mr. Estrada quickly proved he was a man with a destiny that could not be denied.

He went on to earn a J.D. degree *magna cum laude* in 1986 from Harvard Law School, where he was editor of the Harvard Law Review. He clerked for the U.S. Supreme Court and served as U.S. solicitor general and deputy chief of the appellate division for the Manhattan U.S. Attorney's Office. He practiced

constitutional law and argued 15 cases before the Supreme Court.

Now with a nomination from President Bush for a seat on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Mr. Estrada is being considered by the Senate for the second-highest court in the land. If approved, he would be the country's highest ranking Hispanic jurist and joins a short list of people who would be considered for the U.S. Supreme Court.

His impressive credentials prove he is ready and able to assume a federal judgeship. Yet, Senate Democrats, who should be cheering his accomplishments, have vowed to oppose his appointment.

For Mr. Estrada's sake - and for the aspirations of

immigrants throughout this country who believe the American dream is within their grasp - his opponents cannot be allowed to succeed in blocking this appointment.

His Democratic detractors claim he lacks the necessary experience for the judgeship. But Democrats are placing an unprecedented standard on Mr. Estrada, because five of the eight judges currently serving on the district court had no previous judicial experience. Mr. Estrada has proven that he is a brilliant lawyer, receiving a unanimous "well qualified" rating from the American Bar Association.

Latino organizations including the League of United Latin American Citizens, U.S. Hispanic Cham-

ber of Commerce, National Hispanic Bar Association, Hispanic Business Roundtable, Latino Coalition, and Republican National Hispanic Assembly have spoken out on behalf of Mr. Estrada.

"To deny Latinos, the nation's largest minority, the opportunity to have one of our own serve on this court in our nation's capital is unforgivable," said Robert Deposada, president of The Latino Coalition.

The people of this country - and especially those in the Central Valley, where there are so many success stories like Mr. Estrada's - need to rally to his side and tell Senate Democrats to ratify his appointment.

- By Rep. Devin Nunes

Accomplishments— continued from page five

Services for People with Disabilities, among others.

Environment

Endangered Species Act

Rep. Nunes, with other members of the California delegation, sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton expressing their concern with the proposed long-term listing of a supposed distinct population segment of the California Tiger Salamander (CTS) in Sonoma County as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Mr. Nunes said that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed rule is based on inaccurate and incomplete information

regarding the distribution and range of the Sonoma CTS. Mr. Nunes requested that the Fish and Wildlife Service refrain from listing the Sonoma CTS or, at a minimum, allow sufficient time -- at least until June 1, 2003 -- to obtain more accurate, up-to-date and reliable data concerning its true status as required by the ESA.

Clean Air Act

Mr. Nunes cosponsored legislation that would amend the Clean Air Act to exempt California from the federal requirement to use oxygenates (ethanol or MTBE) in gasoline. H.R. 244, sponsored by Rep.

Darrell Issa (R-CA)

Methamphetamine

Mr. Nunes cosponsored the **CLEAN-UP Meth Act**, which will help clean up farms, parks and forests devastated by toxic waste from meth labs, and help both local governments and private citizens with the costs of this clean-up; Provide assistance to schools and health care clinics that are often our first line of defense in keeping children off meth, and helping those trying to escape its deadly pull.

Taxes

Mr. Nunes, along with

his colleagues, sent a letter to Speaker Dennis Hastert, concerning the Interagency Committee on Smoking and Health recommendation to raise taxes on cigarettes by \$2 a pack. The percentage of adults who consume tobacco products in the United States is already in decline, and it is questionable whether a draconian tax increase would accelerate that trend.

Death Tax

Rep. Nunes cosponsored H.R. 57, **Death Tax Permanency Act of 2003**. This bill permanently repeals the death tax.